

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 OIC-04 OMB-01 ABF-01

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO

SUBJECT: FAO GENEVA GROUP MEETING, ROME, OCT. 18

SUMMARY: GROUP DISCUSSED FAO BUDGET, AND LATEST PROPOSED ADDONS AND AGREED TO SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION; DUTCH PROPOSAL RE OVERHEAD COSTS TABLED FOR STUDY; SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS EXPLAINED; FURTHER MEETING SCHEDULED UK EMBASSY OCT. 26.

END SUMMARY.

1. GROUP MET OCT. 18 AT U.S. EMBASSY. CANADA ABSENT. SECRETARIAT BRIEFING TO FAO PERM REPS (REPORTED SEPTTEL) REVIEWED AND PROPOSED ADD-ONS TO BUDGET DISCUSSED TO EXTENT POSSIBLE IN ABSENCE DETAILS. AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM AND GERMANY DISTURBED BY MANNER DG CONTINUALLY INCREASING FIGURE AND FACT LAST ONE MILLION INCREASE NOT PRESENTED TO FINANCE AND PROGRAM COMMITTEES WHICH FINISHED WORK TWO WEEKS AGO.

2. AUSTRALIA REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF BUDGET LEVEL TO BE PROPOSED FAO COUNCIL/CONFERENCE REFLECTED GENERAL UNCERTAINTY GROWING FROM SECRETARIAT PRESENTAION WHICH LEFT MANY OPTIONS OPEN. GG MEMBERS ON FAO FINANCE COMMITTEE

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DETAILED THEIR LAST INFORMATION WHICH NOW SUPERSEDED BY

ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS. CONSIDERABLE CONCERN EXPRESSED WHEN JOINT ARITHMETIC BROUGHT BUDGET LEVEL TO 108.3 MILLION.

3. GG MEMBERS AGREED FURTHER ELABORATION OF DG PROPOSALS NECESSARY AND U.S., UK, FRANCE, GERMANY, AND NETHERLANDS AGREED TO TRY ARRANGE MEETING WITH DDG JACKSON TO CLARIFY QUESTION. MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED THURSDAY, OCT. 25.

GROUP AGREED FOLLOWING WOULD BE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

(A) CLARIFICATION OF ADD-ONS RECENTLY PROPOSED; (B) JUSTIFICATION FOR ESTABLISHING SUSPENSE ACCOUNT AS PROPOSED WHILE RECALCULATING ELEMENTS OF BUDGET FOR FULL BIENNium ON LIRA 563 PER DOLLAR EXCHANGE; (C) POSSIBILITY OF PLACING CERTAIN ALLOCATIONS (WHEN VOTED) IN SPECIAL CHAPTER OR OTHERWISE RESTRICTING SOLELY FOR PURPOSE FOR WHICH USED; AND, (D) CONSIDERATION OF PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP SUGGESTION TO IDENTIFY AND BREAK OUT ELEMENTS IN OVERHEAD COSTS.

4. DUTCH SUGGESTED THAT IF GG COULD REACH GENERAL CONSENSUS ON FIRM FIGURE PRIOR OR DURING COUNCIL, MEMBERS SHOULD APPROACH LDCS (AND OTHER DCS) TO SEEK THEIR SUPPORT. LDCS OBVIOUSLY WILL BE CONCERNED THAT ESTIMATED 34 0/0 INCREASE DIVIDES ROUGHLY INTO 30 0/0 COST INCREASE (MAINLY IN ROME) AND ONLY 3 1/2 0/0 PROGRAM INCREASE.

5. DUTCH DELEGATE ALSO PROPOSED THROUGH WORKING GROUP ON HEADQUARTERS-FIELD RELATIONSHIP TECHNICAL APPROACH TO PROBLEM OF OVERHEAD COST TO IDENTIFY PARTS THAT ARE RIGHTLY CHARGEABLE TO REGULAR PROGRAMS AND SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE MET THEREFROM. IDEA WHICH GREW FROM PROGRAM COMMITTEE DISCUSSION DIVIDES OVERHEAD EFFORTS INTO PHASES AND GAINED MUCH SUPPORT ON PRELIMINARY REVIEW IN GG. WILL BE FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM TO DEPT. FOR STUDY AND ADVICE. ALL GG MEMBERS REQUESTED TIME TO STUDY IDEA AND FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION NEXT MEETING.

6. SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS STILL SOMEWHAT CONFUSING EVEN TO OUR FRIENDS AND GERMAN AND U.S. MEMBERS CAREFULLY EXPLAINED POINTS: CHIEFLY POINTING OUT FAO MEMBERS PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT FROZEN BUT CAN INCREASE THROUGH GROWTH IN GNP. NO PRESENT MEMBER ASSESSMENTS WILL INCREASE AS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSEQUENCE OF U.S. PERCENTAGE BEING LOWERED. GROUP CONFIDENTIALLY INFORMED THAT FINANCE COMMITTEE'S CALCULATIONS RESULT IN U.S. CONTRIBUTION OF 25 0/0 BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1974, AND COMES SOLELY FROM ADMISSION NEW MEMBERS INTO FAO AND ECONOMIC GROWTH SOME PRESENT MEMBERS.

7. GROUP AGREED TO MEET OCT. 25 TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF MEETING WITH DDG JACKSON AND TO DEVELOP TACTICS FOR

HANDLING BUDGET. UK REP STATED HE BELIEVED FURTHER MEETING DURING COUNCIL MIGHT BE NECESSARY.

8. SUBSEQUENT PREPARING ABOVE, THURSDAY MEETING 3:00 PM WITH DDG JACKSON (AND WEST, DIRECTOR PROGRAM FORMULATION AND BUDGET) CONFIRMED.VOLPE

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